



info sheet SIU

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS MANDATE OF THE OFFICE?

In 2013, the Office of the Ombudsman was given the power under the *Ombudsman Act 2013* to look into and inquire about misconduct cases of agencies exercising coercive powers of the State including police and prisons officers as well as any other law enforcement agency in Samoa. In 2016, The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was set up to carry out this mandate.

Objective: “To address misconduct in agencies exercising the coercive powers of the State and to conduct special investigations as maybe authorised.”

SIU is responsible for:

- receiving, investigating and determining any complaints about a police officer, prison officer or officer of other prescribed disciplined force; and
- carrying out any other functions, duties or powers under any other Act or as are prescribed by regulations.

SIU cannot investigate any matter that is being investigated or inquired into by the Police, Prisons or prescribed disciplined force under their respective Acts, unless an exception applies which include situations where the Ombudsman has reasons to believe that:

- there is an abuse of process by the Police, Prisons or prescribed disciplined force; or
- there has been an unreasonable delay in the investigation; or
- the matter has not been appropriately investigated.

More information about the role, functions and powers of SIU are contained in Part 5 (section 41) of the *Ombudsman Act 2013* and in the *Ombudsman (SIU) Regulations 2016*.

Agencies investigated

Complaints against law enforcement agencies including - Ministry of Police, Prisons and Corrections Services, Land Transport Authority, Customs and Immigration are handled by this Unit